TRANSFORMERS ANIMATED

DIVE BOMB

HE TORY

inobot Island s are less than onious, but a between lock and op is only the of the les.

the US rce about to a new stealth ber, there dn't be a more gerous time for gue Decepticon rn up... but s exactly what Autobots are d with!

need some l support - and But who could ibly help?

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GRIMLOCK ONLY DOING THIS FOR SWOOP'S OWN - HEY!
SNAARRL
RELAX, SNARL — ME GRIMLOCK ONLY WANT PEACE.
PIECE OF SWOOP'S METAL HIDE!
KARAKT
OH, SUDDENLY SWOOP ALL BIG AND TOUGH?
SKRREEEEE!

FUUSHH
ME THINK...
WHHAPP
"...YOU NEED TO COOL OFF!"
SPOSH
ME GRIMLOCK BOSS. BOSS ALWAYS RIGHT. YOU HAVE PROBLEM WITH GRIMLOCK ANSWER, SNARL? YOU STICK YOUR PROBLEM WHERE SUN DON'T SHINE.
HM. ANSWER IS COW? ME SURE YOU GET MILK FROM STEGOSAURUS. DUMB QUIZ SHOW.
HMPH!

SO YOU RIGHT ABOUT *QUIZ SHOW*, SWOOP, YOU STILL NOT RIGHT ABOUT *MANY OTHER THINGS*.
FLY AWAY, THEN! FAH. *GOOD RIDDANCE*. *LOOONG* LIST OF APPLICANTS FOR DINOBOTS POSITION.
SHUT UP, SNARL. WHEN GRIMLOCK *WANT* YOUR OPINION, HE ASK FOR IT.
WHAT THE-?
BASE — THIS IS "ACHILLES-5-BRAVO"...
"...I'VE JUST BEEN BUZZED BY A PTERANODON!"
LATER...
WELL... SWOOP'S NOT *EXACTLY* ONE OF MINE, BUT—
JUST SORT IT, *PRIME*. KEEP THAT PREHISTORIC FLYBOY IN LINE OR I'LL COME DOWN ON YOU AND YOURS SO HARD IT'LL MAKE CAPTAIN FANZONE LOOK LIKE YOUR BIGGEST FAN!
MACADAM — *OUT*.

AUTOBASE.

ALWAYS A PLEASURE, GENERAL. DON'T BE A STRANGER...

WHAT'S *HIS* PROBLEM?

HM. OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH EARTH'S ARMED FORCES IS A LITTLE, UM, *STRAINED*, BULKHEAD.

BEST *NOT* TO GIVE MACADAM ANY EXCUSE TO FLEX HIS MILITARY MUSCLE.

SO WE'RE GOING TO *CLIP* SWOOP'S WINGS?

WE'RE GOING TO *REASON* WITH HIM, *PROWL*. THE *LAST* THING I WANT IS *MORE* GENERAL DINOBOT DISORDER.

HM. NONE OF US FLY, SO IT'S GOING TO BE TOUGH EVEN *FINDING* SWOOP, LET ALONE LECTURING HIM.

FINDING HIM'S EASY, *BUMBLEBEE*.

OH? AND WHERE *EXACTLY* DO YOU SUGGEST WE LOOK, OLD TIMER?

TRY... OUTSIDE. *KID*.

AND, MOMENTS LATER...

NOW *LOOK*, SWOOP...

...THIS HAS *GOT* TO STOP.

UNLESS YOU WANT US *ALL* TO END UP AT THE RECYCLING DEPOT, LAY OFF THE FIGHTER JETS!
IS THAT *UNDERSTOOD*?

WAIT, OPTIMUS, WHAT IF HE'S HERE TO JOIN UP? TO HELP US?
SWOOP, I DIDN'T—

WITHOUT WAITING FOR A FURTHER WORD FROM THE AUTOBOTS, THE FURIOUS SWOOP LAUNCHES INTO THE SKY.
SKREEECH

SHEEEESH
THE NIGHT AIR IS STILL... ASIDE FROM THE BEATING OF A LONELY DINOBOT'S WINGS...

THE NEXT DAY, ***BATTLE CREEK*** AIRFORCE BASE, MICHIGAN:

GENERAL MACADAM, SIR — TOWER SAYS WE ARE CLEAR TO LAUNCH ***THE WRAITH-X***.

ALL SYSTEMS ARE GREEN. TEST COURSE AND "TARGET" ARE LOCKED IN.

SIMMONS?

RIGHT. GET HER AIRBORNE. IF THIS AUTOMATED STEALTH BOMBER IS EVERYTHING YOU CLAIM IT IS, THE NEXT TIME WE SEE HER...

...SHE'LL BE COMING ***BACK***.

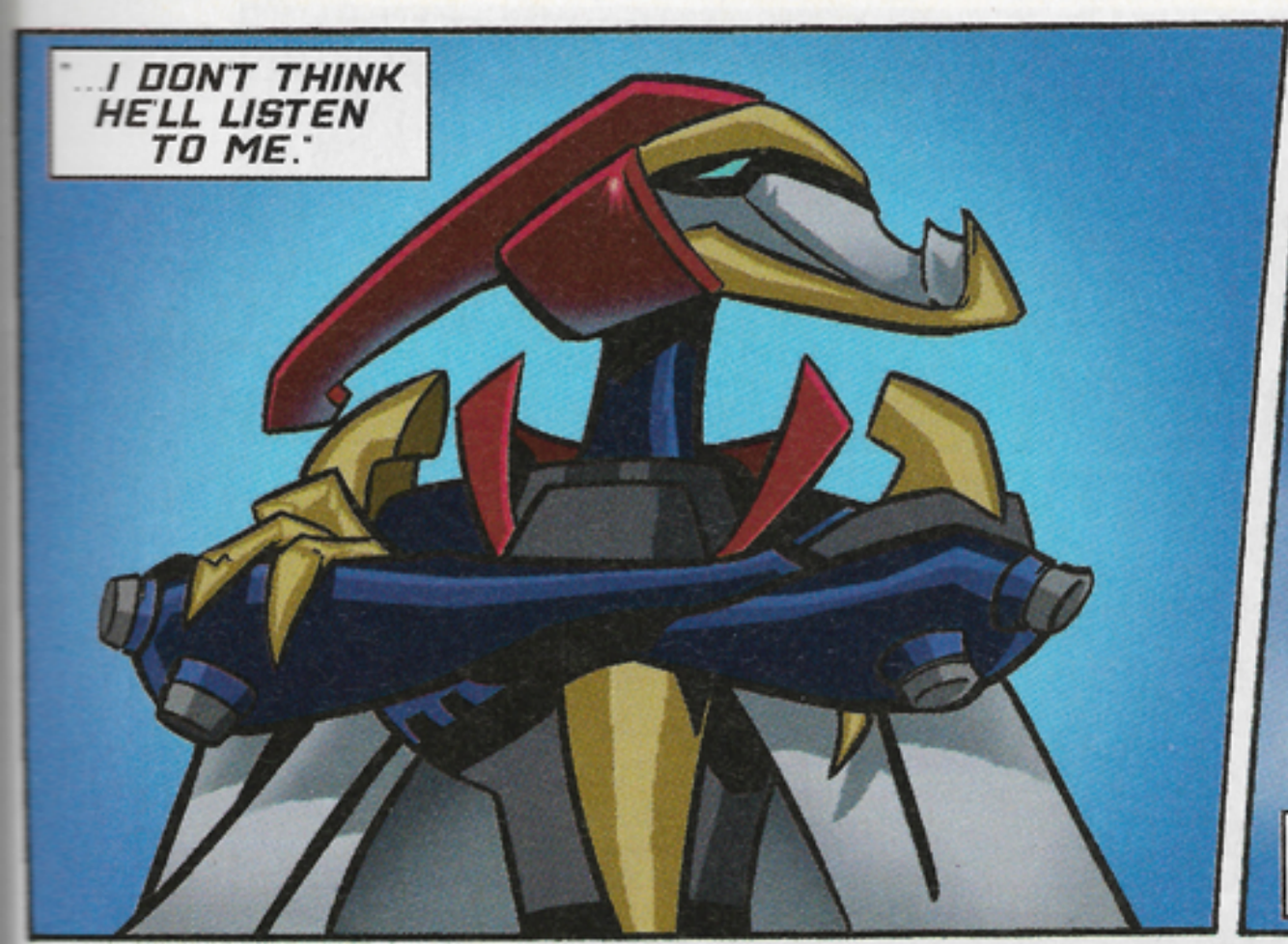
IF IT'S ***STEALTH*** YOU'RE AFTER, HUMANS...

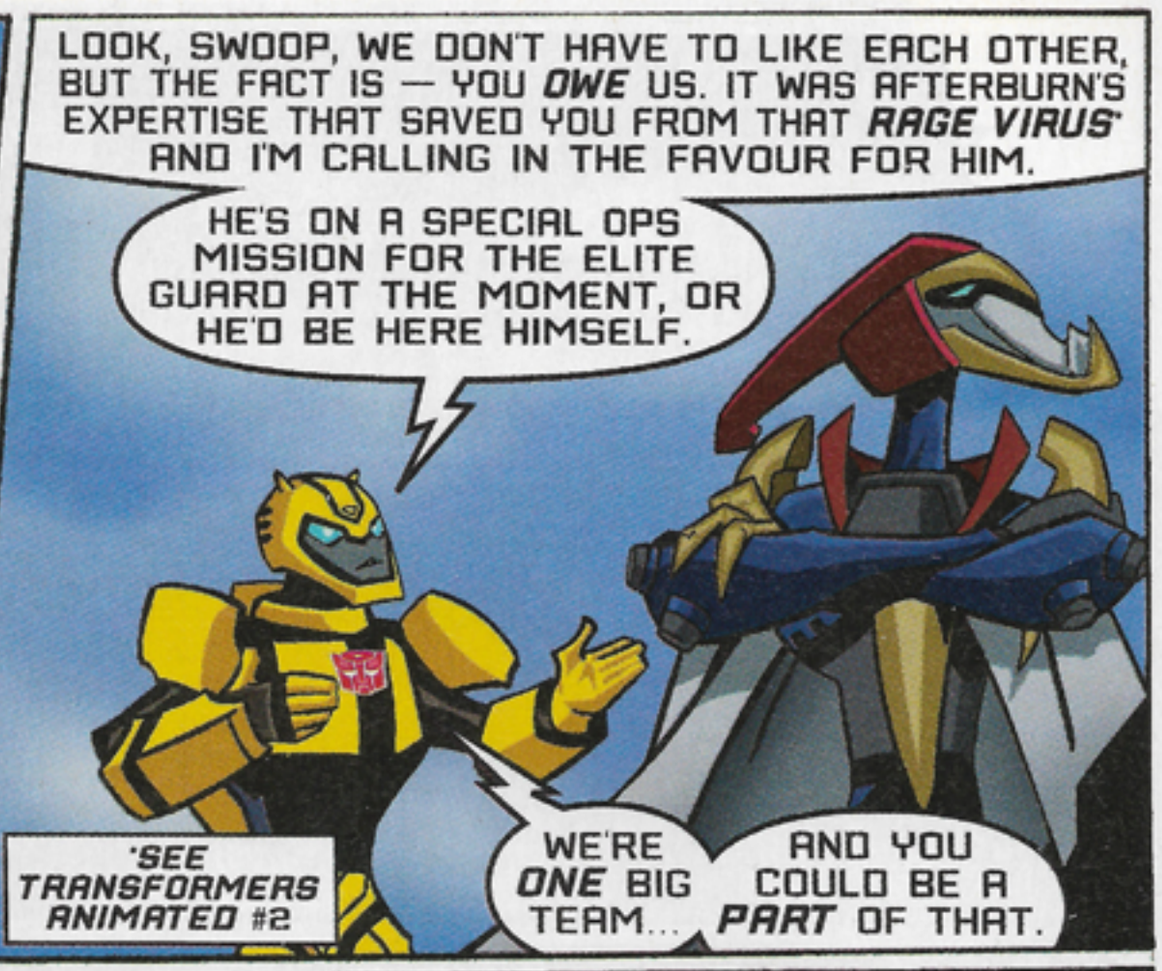
...NO ONE ***EVER*** SEES ***ME*** COMING!

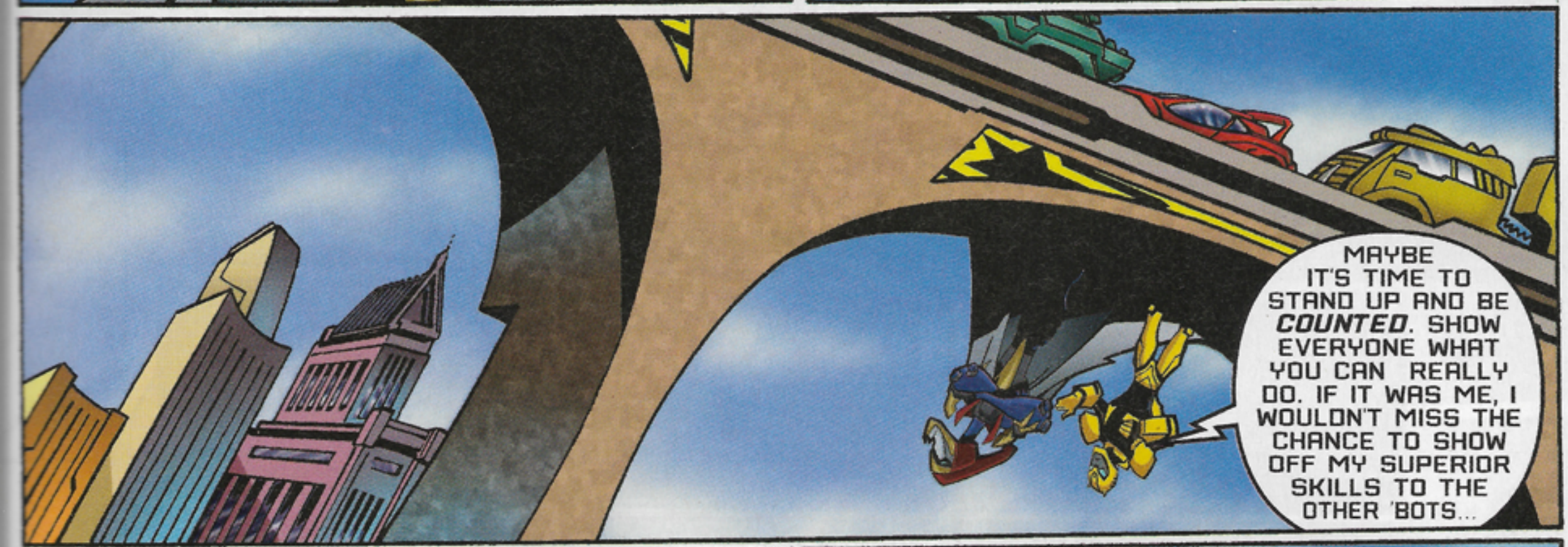
SPATOOM

STARSCREAM!

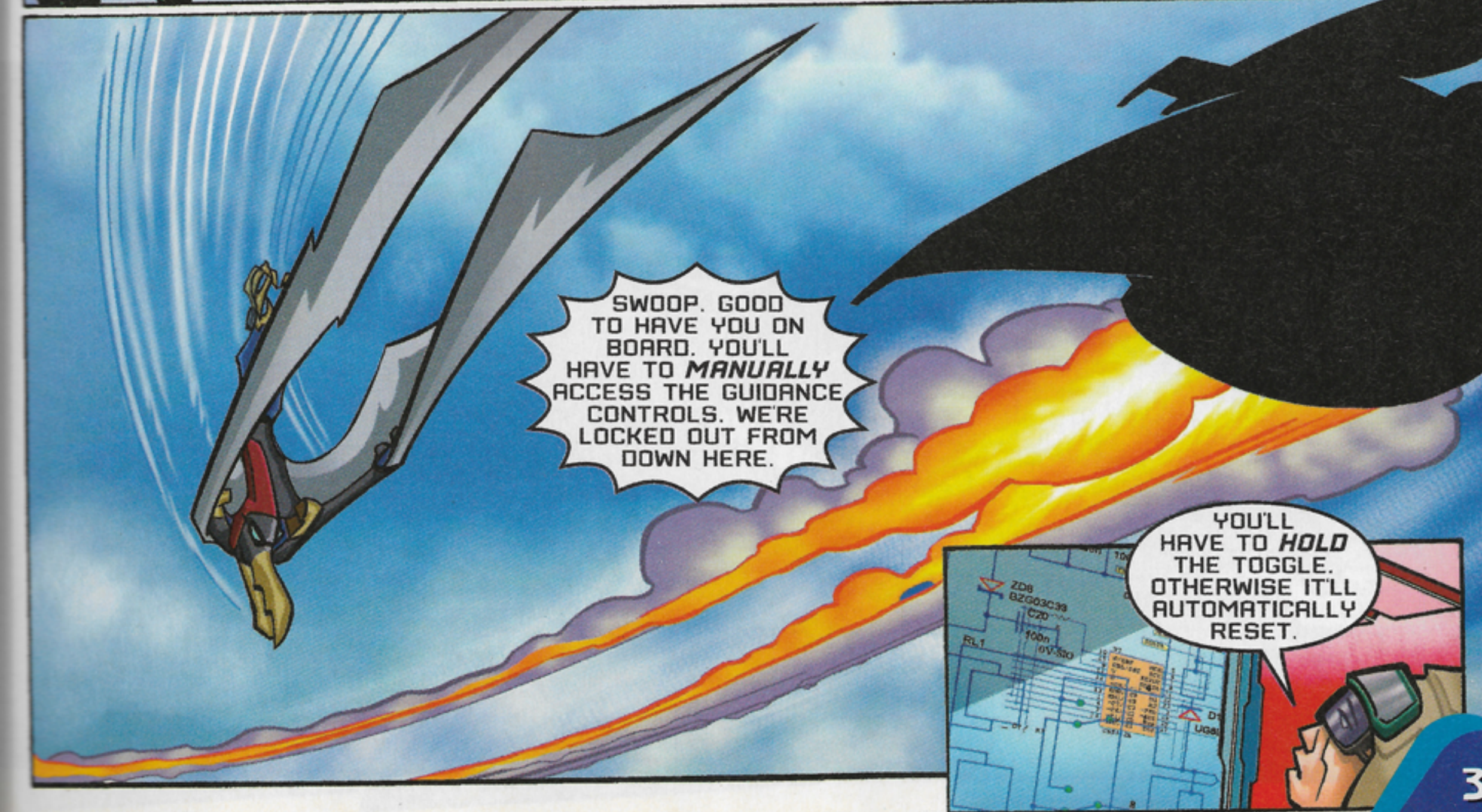
OOH GOODIE! LET'S *SEE* WHAT WE HAVE HERE...
AH YES. A SLIGHT COURSE ALTERATION, A NEW TARGET... OH, AND LET'S *ACTIVATE* THE PRIMARY WARHEAD WHILE WE'RE AT IT, SHALL WE?
MAXIMUM DAMAGE, MINIMUM EFFORT — MY ALL-TIME FAVOURITE COMBO.
AND IT'S *GOODNIGHT, DETROIT*!
AUTOBASE:
YOU LOST A STATE-OF-THE-ART STEALTH BOMBER? THAT'S... *CARELESS*.
NO. THAT'S *STARSCREAM*. MORE TO THE POINT...
...WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO *DO* ABOUT IT?
US? DO? WHY, GENERAL... ARE YOU ASKING FOR OUR ASSISTANCE?
LISTEN, SMART-BOT. DETROIT MAY BE THE TARGET, BUT IF I HAD TO GUESS *EXACTLY* WHERE THE BOMB IS HEADING FOR... WELL, LET'S JUST SAY IF I WERE YOU, I'D TAKE A LOOK AROUND YOUR 'HOME' WHILE YOU STILL CAN.
IMPOSSIBLE. NO ONE KNOWS THE CO-ORDINATES OF OUR HQ.
ARE YOU SURE? WE'VE INTERCEPTED A NUMBER OF ENCRYPTED TRANSMISSIONS COMING FROM YOUR APPROXIMATE VICINITY...
WE'RE ON IT, GENERAL. PRIME OUT.
OPTIONS?
NO ONE KNOWS OUR *EXACT* LOCATION, EXCEPT SARI. I'LL HAVE TO RUN A CHECK ON ALL COMMUNICATIONS...
THE WRAITH-X IS INVISIBLE TO JUST ABOUT *ANY* EARLY WARNING SYSTEM. BY THE TIME WE GET ACTUAL VISUAL CONTACT... IT'LL BE TOO LATE. WE NEED AN EYE-IN-THE-SKY — *FAST*.
I KNOW *JUST* WHERE TO FIND ONE. ONLY TROUBLE IS...


"...I DON'T THINK HE'LL LISTEN TO ME."


LOOK, SWOOP, WE DON'T HAVE TO LIKE EACH OTHER, BUT THE FACT IS — YOU OWE US. IT WAS AFTERBURN'S EXPERTISE THAT SAVED YOU FROM THAT RAGE VIRUS* AND I'M CALLING IN THE FAVOUR FOR HIM.
HE'S ON A SPECIAL OPS MISSION FOR THE ELITE GUARD AT THE MOMENT, OR HE'D BE HERE HIMSELF.
*SEE TRANSFORMERS ANIMATED #2
WE'RE ONE BIG TEAM...
AND YOU COULD BE A PART OF THAT.


MAYBE IT'S TIME TO STAND UP AND BE COUNTED. SHOW EVERYONE WHAT YOU CAN REALLY DO. IF IT WAS ME, I WOULDN'T MISS THE CHANCE TO SHOW OFF MY SUPERIOR SKILLS TO THE OTHER 'BOTS...

OKAY, I HAVE VISUAL CONTACT...
AND, SOON...


SWOOP. GOOD TO HAVE YOU ON BOARD. YOU'LL HAVE TO MANUALLY ACCESS THE GUIDANCE CONTROLS. WE'RE LOCKED OUT FROM DOWN HERE.
YOU'LL HAVE TO HOLD THE TOGGLE. OTHERWISE IT'LL AUTOMATICALLY RESET.

IF SWOOP REGRETS THE CHOICE HE HAS MADE TO HELP...
IT SHOWS ONLY BRIEFLY ON HIS FACE...
BEFORE HE DIVES TOWARDS THE WRAITH-X!
CRRRSSSK
CRUUUNNNNK
GOOD WORK, SWOOP! NOW, OPEN THE ACCESS PANEL...
...AND TRY AND BRING THE NOSE UP!
A TASK EASIER SAID...

...THAN DONE!
SWOOP — IT'S PRIME. YOU CAN *DO* THIS. YOU *HAVE* TO DO THIS! SO *MANY* ARE DEPENDING ON YOU.
SPASH
SWOOP?
SHOOOOM
SWOOP?
CRZZZ-
SUDDENLY, SWOOP'S TRANSPONDER SIGNAL LIGHTS UP AT AUTOBASE.
CRAAAAAAAK!
SWOOP — YOU'RE A *HERO*! FROM NOW ON, THE SKY'S THE LIMIT!

 TO BE CONTINUED...